

Please cancel claims 19 and 20.

REMARKS

The informalities noted in the action are resolved by the present amendment. Drawing replacement will be processed.

Reconsideration of each of the art rejections of claims 1-18 is requested.

The claims were rejected on Erickson in view of Swei (claims 6-8 and 17-18 per 35 U.S.C. §103). Please note the following

The Erickson et al. patent (USP 5,645,619) refers to the production of a sol-gel abrasive where there is added to a boehmite sol - a precursor compound for Fe_2O_3 and a dispersible SiO_2 compound. The sol thus produced is gelatinized, calcined and sintered and then prepared as an abrasive. The Erickson et al. method produces an abrasive which, apart from a main component Al_2O_3 , additionally contains iron oxide and silicon oxide (see claim 1). Claim 31 describes a variant of the method where, first, a porous precursor compound is produced for an abrasive which is impregnated with an SiO_2 -containing compound and then sintered. In both cases is produced an abrasive on the basis of Al_2O_3 , which additionally contains iron oxide and silicon oxide, ideally homogeneously dispersed throughout the complete abrasive -.

The present invention, as recited in product claims 1-11 and method claims 12-18 is something completely different -- a hard material coated with a polysiloxane layer with a hardness of ≥ 10 GPa. This layer avoids or reduces high capillarity of the hard material in comparison to low-viscosity fluids as well as diffusion of light when covering the hard material with a lacquer or a laminate layer for improving wear resistance.

The Swei patent (USP 5,182,173) describes a filler which consists of an inorganic nucleus which is covered with a layer of a net silicone elastomer. The silicone elastomer is chemically bound with the nucleus and is produced by the reaction of multifunctional polysiloxanes with a multi-functional siloxane (claim 1). The Swei method has these steps:

- a) transfer mono-functional polysiloxane with a multi-functional silane into a multi-functional polysiloxane,
- b) transfer the multi-functional polysiloxane with a silane cross-linking-agent into a silicone net,
- c) coat the filler nucleus with a reactive silicone net and
- d) harden the reactive net to a net silicone elastomer.

The present invention, however, deals with a hard material which is covered by a polysiloxane layer. This a completely different material that is covered with a different layer for a complete different purpose.

Both citations refer to substances and methods that do have only little in common with the substances and method along with the present invention. Therefore, it is submitted that, a combination of the teachings of both documents cannot lead to the method and product in accordance with the present invention.

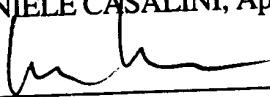
Accordingly allowance of claims 1-18 is requested.

If any questions remain, please call Applicant's attorney, collect, at the number given above. If any sums are owed due to claim adjustments, please debit or credit Deposit Account 03-2410, order 12707-3.

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By:

Respectfully submitted,
DANIELE CASALINI, Applicant



Jerry Cohen
Reg. No. 20,522
Attorney for Applicant